**REMARKS**

In the Office Action mailed December 14, 2009, the Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as non-statutory; rejected claims 1, 4-5, 8, 9, 11, 20, 23, and 26-30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness; and rejected claims 1, 4-5, 7-9, 11, 20, 23, and 26-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,177,642 to Sanchez-Herrero et al. (Herrero) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,822,945 to Petrovykh.[1]

By this amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 7, 11, 20, and 27-30 to more clearly define the features of those claims and cancel claims 10, 21, 22, 24, and 25 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, 11, 20, 23, and 26-30 are currently pending.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101, Applicants disagree with the Examiner's statements regarding the control entity. Nonetheless, Applicants have amended claim 11 to advance prosecution. Applicants submit that the apparatus of claim 1 is *per se* statutory as it positively recites a "processor." Therefore, the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 should be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness, Applicants submit that the amendments to the pending claims obviate the basis of the Examiner's rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-5, 7-9, 11, 20, 23, and 26-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Herrero in view of Petrovykh. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, recites the following features:

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[1] Only the currently pending claims are depicted.

registering, in a controller entity, a plurality of contact addresses for a user;

receiving, at the controller entity, a request for a communication link to the user;

querying, by the controller entity, a database at a home subscriber server for information regarding a manner regarding how to handle the request, when a user preference for forking has not been included in at least one of the request or the registering, wherein said queried information indicates whether said request is to be forked at least one of in parallel or sequentially, wherein the controller entity is implemented at a serving call state control function; and

processing, at the controller entity, the request based on the queried information from the database, when a user preference for forking has not been included in at least one of the request or the registering.

In some implementations consistent with claim 1, when a user preference for forking has not been provided either by not indicating that preference in a request or not indicating that preference during registration to the controller entity, such as for example a serving call state control function (S-CSCF), the controller entity (e.g., the S-CSCF) is used to avoid this state, i.e., having an undefined user preference for forking.

Herrero generally discloses a method and system for handling multiple registration. In particular, Herrero discloses supporting multiple registration from the same user requested from different terminals in a telecommunications system requiring to manage information related to the location of said user and related to the plurality of identifiers that identify said user in said system. *See, e.g.,* Herrero, Abstract. However, Herrero is silent with respect to mechanisms related to a lack of user preferences for the multiple registrations. Moreover, it is indisputable that the Herrero S-CSCF lacks any of the features recited in claim 1 with respect to the controller entity implemented at a serving call state control function. See, e.g., Herrero at FIGS. 2 and 5.

In view of the foregoing, Herrero fails to disclose or suggest at least the following

features of claim 1: "receiving, at the controller entity, a request for a communication link to the user;" and "querying, by the controller entity, a database at a home subscriber server for information regarding a manner regarding how to handle the request, when a user preference for forking has not been included in at least one of the request or the registering, wherein said queried information indicates whether said request is to be forked at least one of in parallel or sequentially, wherein the controller entity is implemented at a serving call state control function." Moreover, although Petrovykh discloses a workforce resource allocation application, Petrovykh fails to cure the noted deficiencies of Herrero. More importantly, the Examiner does not allege that Petrovykh cures the noted deficiencies of Herrero. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over Herrero and Petrovykh, whether taken alone or in combination, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claim 1 as well as claims 4, 5, 7-9, and 23, at least by reason of their dependency, should be withdrawn.

Independent claims 11 and 20, although of different scope, include similar features with respect to claim 1. For at least the reason given above with respect to claim 1, claims 11 and 20, as well as claims 25-30, at least by reason of their dependency, are allowable over Herrero and Petrovykh, whether taken alone or in combination, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of those claims should be withdrawn.
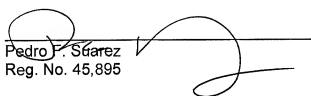
## CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing amendments, the pending claims are in condition for allowance. It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper.

Applicant is concurrently filing herewith a Petition for a one-month extension of time with the requisite fee. Authorization for a credit-card payment of the filing fees mentioned above is submitted herewith. No additional fees are believed to be due, however the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, reference No. 39700-793001US/NC39973US. If there are any questions regarding this reply, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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